

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1 to 3.

Please enter the following new claims:

4. (New) A method for reducing fractures comprising the steps of:
 - (a) Inserting an intramedullary nail into a cortical bone of a patient wherein the intramedullary nail comprises a hollow interior for use as a guidewire track and a plurality of screw openings adapted to receive a plurality of screws.
 - (b) Inserting a first distal screw and locking the first distal screw in a first screw opening;
 - (c) Inserting a threaded guidewire through the guidewire track;
 - (d) Inserting a second screw proximal to the first distal screw and tightening the second screw thereby pushing the threaded guidewire into the first distal screw and causing the guidewire and first distal screw threads to interact and lock the screw to the nail; and
 - (e) Repeating step “d” until the plurality of screws necessary to produce the intramedullary nail with locked screw to maintain the fracture.
5. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of screws are perforated as a means to accept the threaded guidewire.
6. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of screws are tapered with partial threading as a means to accept the threaded guidewire.

7. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of screws are tapered with segmented threading as a means to accept the threaded guidewire.
8. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of screws are tapered with full threading as a means to accept the threaded guidewire.
9. (New) The method of Claim 4 wherein the guidewire has a “Y” shaped bottom to aid in locking the most distal screw.

A copy of the claims is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.